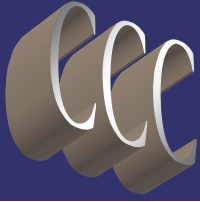


COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL



SAFEGUARDING THE COMMUNITY BY REHABILITATING LOW RISK OFFENDERS THROUGH CLASSES AND COUNSELING

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The Continuing Need for Community Correction Programs

Based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics Prison Statistics, on June 30, 2006 there were 2,245,189 prisoners held in Federal or State prisons or in local jails, an increase of 2.8% from midyear 2005. In Nebraska, we have seen a 7% increase over the same period, going from an average of 4,086 inmates in 2005 to 4,410 today.

Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Pro-

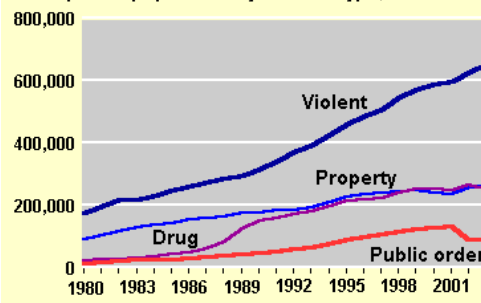
ject, a Washington based group that supports criminal justice reform, wrote in his December 22, 2006 article *America Has Become an Incarceration Nation* "Drug policies have been responsible for a disproportionate share of the rising inmate population, with the 40,000 drug offenders in prison or jail in 1980 increasing to a half million today". However, it is not just the population numbers states need to

be concerned with but the sheer cost of maintaining the "get tough" policies. According to Mauer in the aforementioned article, these policies designed to

incarcerate more people for longer periods of time "contributed to massive prison construction and a corrections budget now totaling \$60 billion annually."

In Nebraska, drug offenders make up 17.4% of the prison population or 759 individuals, who are incarcerated as of June 30, 2007. With an annual average cost per offender of \$26,844 for incarceration including parole compared to \$3,032 to complete the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program, it is apparent that there is still a need for community corrections programs in order to divert an offender population into successful alternative rehabilitative programs that continuously maintain public safety.

State prison population by offense type, 1980-2003



U.S. BJS 2003 Chart

Bringing in the New Year After a Successful Year

2007 has been an outstanding year for the Council.

Nebraska was chosen by the Pew Charitable Trusts to receive technical support from the Vera Institute of Justice. The Probation and Parole Services Study is currently progressing with a final report presented in December 2007.

Probation Administration, in a collaborative effort with various third parties and with support from the CCC, hosted the *Community Corrections and Addictive Treatment Conference* in May which brought together hundreds of providers, judges, lawyers, correctional staff and nationally renowned speakers.

The six Reporting Centers (RCs) are showing steadily increasing numbers of offenders being treated. In turn, there are increasing probation and parole numbers for the Fee-for-Service Treatment Voucher Program (Voucher).

As one can see, collaboration has been and will be a most important point in the continuing success of the CCC.

Interest Points:

- CONTINUING NEED FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
- 2007 RECAP
- A LOOK AT 2008
- REPORTING CENTERS
- PROBATION
- JBHC
- WORD FROM THE COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL

Reporting Center (RC)

Reporting Centers have become an integral contributor to the success of the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program.

2006 marked a milestone for the creation of the RC when the CCC approved the standards set for the RC and the first staff were hired.

Reporting Centers encompass:

- ◆ A nonresident program staffed by Probation and/or Parole staff or contract staff.
- ◆ Daily offender contact and monitoring.

- ◆ A diverse set of programs are provided based on the offender's needs: intensive substance abuse treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention counseling, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) groups, General Education Designation (GED) and Adult Behavioral Education (ABE) and life skills classes, job referrals, and vocational services, and finally parenting skills.

There are currently six RCs operating in the state, each

serving a probation district as outlined below:

District 4 Douglas

District 5 Sarpy

District 6 Lancaster

District 16 Dakota County

District 9/17 Dawson and Buffalo

To handle increasing demand and maintain high quality of services, the Omaha RC has moved to their new location in the Omaha Correctional Center in May 2007 while the Lincoln RC moved to its permanent location at Trabert Hall in August 2007.

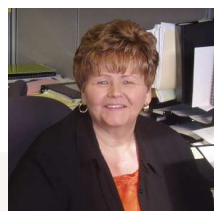
Probation Districts



The RC Showcase



Probation officer Garth shows off the computer lab at Kearney, District 17.



Rosalee, South Sioux City RC receptionist, helps to maintain the success of the District 16 RC.

Reporting Centers allow individuals to learn skills to assist in their rehabilitation, such as in this Thinking 4 Change class at the District 6 SSAS Center in Lincoln.



The Community Room in the Lincoln RC provides a group training space for Prosocial activities. (District 6)



Problem Solving Courts

Led by the Nebraska Supreme Court in collaboration with the Council, Specialty or Problem-Solving Courts are leading a new way of doing business—one that emphasizes partnerships in and outside the courts, improved community access to the justice system, increased accountability for offenders and better outcomes. These outcomes may be seen as increased public safety and a reduction in offender recidivism, which in turn results

in a decrease in costs. As discussed by Pamela M. Casey and David B. Rottman in *Problem-Solving Courts: Models and Trends* problem solving courts have been “developed in response to frustration by both court systems and the public to the large numbers of cases that seemed to be disposed repeatedly but not resolved... they (problem solving courts) offer the promise of a more meaningful resolution of court cases involving individuals

with psychosocial problems as well as legal issues.” Examples of problem-solving courts include drug, domestic violence, D.U.I., family development, and mental health. Each of the courts seek to use judicial oversight and a comprehensive team approach to improve outcomes for victims, communities and participants. The Court Administration’s goal is to have at least two such courts in each judicial district.

EACH OF THE COURTS SEEK TO USE JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT AND A COMPREHENSIVE TEAM APPROACH TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR VICTIMS, COMMUNITIES AND PARTICIPANTS.

The Voucher Program

Since the spring of 2007, there have been great strides in the Fee-For-Service Treatment Voucher program (Voucher Program) in which selected offenders are able to receive treatment services at a sliding scale rate. The Voucher Program keeps the door open for offenders on Probation and Parole that normally would have been

unable to obtain services because of an inability to pay. Now if the offender proves financial difficulty, they are placed on the Voucher Program. Implementation training for the use of Vouchers was provided with substantial funding from the General fund (overseen by the Council) and Probation fees.

CCC Welcomes Jeffry Beaty

Jeffry Beaty was hired on December 4, 2007 as the new Policy Analyst for the Council. After graduating from the University of NE-Lincoln Law School, Jeff worked in the Legislature from 99-07 as the legislative aide to former Senator and current Mayor Chris-Beutler and as Legal Counsel to the Judiciary Committee.

A family man with two sons, Seth (5) and Evan (3), Jeff is excited to be working with the Council. He believes the Council is a great example of the collaboration it



takes to succeed in the development and implementation of community corrections.

Justice Behavioral Health Committee (JBHC)-Curriculum Subcommittee

The Curriculum Subcommittee membership includes representatives from Justice, Behavioral Health, licensing and academia. The Curriculum Subcommittee is charged with the following:

- Identify the skills, knowledge and capacities needed by practitioners to provide substance abuse evaluation services to the criminal justice population.
- Identify the skills and addiction knowledge needed by criminal jus-

tice professionals working with this population.

- Identify initial training standards and continuing education requirements for professionals providing evaluation services.
- Coordinate training, educational and continuing education standards with various professional licensing boards.
- Identify providers willing and able to provide specialized training.

To date the subcommittee

had compiled current NE and national officer training curriculums and standards, best practices training models for substance abuse professionals and trainers and Standardized Model training materials. The group is developing standards and training algorithms outlining the performance expectations at various skill levels for addiction and justice professionals as well as for trainers. This framework is anticipated to translate well in future collaborative work with professional licensing boards.

JBHC HAS CREATED THE FOLLOWING THREE SUBCOMMITTEES TO SUPPORT THE MAIN WORK OF THE COMMITTEE:

- CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
- DATA SUBCOMMITTEE
- PROVIDER SUBCOMMITTEE

Word From The Council



In order to understand how far the Community Corrections Council has come since the inception of the original Commu-

nity Corrections Working Group in the fall of 2000, it is important to understand some general notions about how government works.

That is, agencies tend to focus on their "own world." This is simply the nature of things. Agencies focus on the demands of their superiors, the constituency and interests that they serve,

and, yes, justifying their budget requests. There is nothing unusual or malicious about such state of affairs, but its "reality" informs the "status quo" that exerts great pressure against any effort to bring about change and cooperation.

So, when the Working Group started examining why community corrections efforts in Nebraska had been totally, or mostly totally, ineffective previously, we found two things: (1) a great deal of goodwill among the individuals who were coming together for the first time; and (2) a tremendous lack of understanding of the potential that could be realized by cooperation and planning.

If anything, the Council has sought in its work to bring all of the relevant parties together – executive, judicial, and legisla-

tive branches; state and local; agencies and interests – and to look beyond the narrow focus of "each" to the "greater good" of a more efficient and effective justice system for "all."

That we have accomplished what we have in an historically brief period is due to the impressive willingness of all parties to take part in such collaboration in good faith. I acknowledge and thank everyone involved for that commitment, effort and integrity! And, I look forward to a continuation of this important work for the benefit of all Nebraskans!



Kermit A. Brashear, Chair
Community Corrections Council

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